



County of Placer

Fish and Game Commission

11477 E Avenue ▪ Auburn, CA 95603 ▪ (530) 889-7372

District 1 – Don Gould

District 2 – Mark Fowler

District 3 – Jim Victorine

District 4 – Gary Flanagan

District 5 – Kari Freidig

District 5 – Mickey Daniels

District 5 – Scott Husmann

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room

3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA

County Contact: Ed King

1. **Call to Order** – Kari Freidig – called meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. **Roll Call** – Present: Fowler, Gould, Daniels, Freidig, Victorine, Husmann
Absent: Flanagan
3. **Approval of July 26, 2017 Agenda & June 28, 2017 Minutes**
Agenda: Fowler/Gould/MPUV
Minutes: Freidig/Husmann/MPUV
4. **Public Comment:** Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. **No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.** No public comment.
5. **Financial Report – by Ed King**
Preliminary fiscal year end expenditures through June totaled \$9,766.

Year end court fines and penalty assessments through June totaled \$890.

Court fine and penalty assessment totals for the previous four years:
13/14 - \$525
14/15 - \$2850
15/16 - \$1455
16/17 - \$890
6. **Agency Reports:**
 - A. **Commissioner Reports** – Commissioner Gould reported that former commissioner George Goto passed away; his service will be on August 10th at the Buddhist Church in Penryn.
 - B. **State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee:** Mark Fowler
 - CDFW is now hiring wildlife enforcement officers. Cadets and officers can fill out applications by August 11th.
 - CDFW has completed the 2017 Waterfowl breeding population survey. The

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waterfowl breeding population has decreased; mallards have decreased 25% and total ducks 5%, which was not expected due to all the precipitation this year. The survey has been ongoing since 1948 via fixed wing airplanes.

- CDFW has confirmed a wolf pack in Lassen County has been discovered – now called the Lassen Pack - a female with her mate and 3 pups. The Shasta wolf pack has unknown status although one pup was detected in northwestern Nevada in 2016.
- Special Dove hunt opportunities are available for 2017. The Sacramento County in Consumes River Preserve will be the local hunt drawing area. Collar Dove can be hunted year-around (with proper license).

C. Land Use Subcommittee: Scott Husmann, Don Gould – Husmann presented an issue regarding the Fowler Road Tentative Subdivision Map: the wetlands area was not addressed in southwest corner of submitted map. The date for comments is coming to an end. Comments about this exclusion can be forwarded to Ed King and he can send on to appropriate people.

D. Department of Fish & Wildlife: Brian Moore – There has been slow activity in last months with such warm weather. Archery season for deer will be coming up, as well as for squirrel (September 1st). No illegal dredging calls have been received. People are waiting on permitting process. Audience member asked about shooting coyotes without depredation permit. Moore says that they only need a hunting license. Question from Victorine regarding Bear River Campground harassment. The Placer County Sheriff's Department is monitoring the situation for people staying too long.

E. Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency

NID: Storage as of July 19th, 2017 was 241,000 AF; 91% of capacity; 115% of average for this date. The precipitation year starts July 1st so there is no precipitation to date. Most campgrounds are open, the exceptions being Pass Creek and East Meadow at Jackson Meadows reservoir.

PCWA: French Meadows: 87% capacity; ~5,248'; ~117,000 ac ft
Hell Hole: 90% capacity; ~4612'; 186,000 ac ft
Middle Fork American blw Oxbow/Ralston: 1100-1300 cfs
Folsom: ~460'; ~912,000 ac ft; ~3,500 cfs in lower American River
Whitewater boating below Oxbow is in full-swing.

7. Informational Items:

- A. Captain John Lawson, from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Operations Unit, spoke and showed a slide presentation about the department's wildlife trafficking efforts.

Captain Lawson is now the State-wide operations captain for the canine program, Special Operations Unit, Delta Bay Enforcement Team, and Wildlife Trafficking Team. CalTip is for public to use to give tips to the DFW – including sales of ivory. California has made it illegal to sell products from endangered species. California is a producer, consumer and conduit for illegally trafficked wildlife because of multiple ports serving international shipping. AB 96 was passed and became effective January 1, 2016. AB 96 added Section 2022 to the Fish and Game Code making it unlawful to purchase or sell ivory.

Definition of Illegal Ivory – tooth or tusk from a species of elephant, hippo, mammoth, mastodon, walrus, warthog, whale tooth or narwhal, or piece thereof, whether raw or processed ivory.

There is now money available to start a genetics lab to test these samples. With the testing, the exact herd in Africa the ivory came from may be determined. Authentic ivory has Schreger Lines—little lines on the ivory itself show whether elephant ivory is from extinct (less than 90 degree lines) or present elephant (greater than 90 degree lines). The tooth nerve goes through tusk, and this line is from the nerve. The Schreger lines only show on the cross section, so not always visible in each sample. Samples were passed around. When a UV light is used ivory glows under the light, plastic does not. Teeth of elk made into jewelry are considered ivory...but teeth by themselves, are not considered ivory. Elk ivory would not have the Schreger lines. Rhino horn is really a modified hair. One rhino whole horn is going for \$150 - \$200K. Ivory is a status symbol. Team is working covertly through the internet with buyers so they can arrest them onsite.

Captain Lawson went to South Africa on a personal safari visit; found out how private land owners handle poachers. Landowners have 12' tall fences - around 5,000 to 80,000 acres. They have 24-hour patrols with tractors that smooth the sand, so they can see if anyone has trespassed. If they find an intruder they immediately break their legs, chain them to a tree, and eventually call the authorities. A lot of the poachers are from Mozambique.

There are rhino farms in South Africa. Black rhinos are endangered, white Rhinos are not. People pay \$50 - \$60K to shoot these animals. They cut the horn to discourage poaching; then taxidermists re-create the horn for mounting.

Elephant ivory – Netflix has the documentary *Ivory War* with Leonardo DiCaprio. Shows collection and burning of illegal ivory which does not destroy the ivory. It

can only be destroyed ivory by crushing. August 12th DFW host an ivory crush in Sacramento. Powdered ivory can be re-structured with resin to be carved, etc. Carvers often use their scraps and re-constitute them to carve more.

AB 96 section 2022 has exemptions per the Federal Fish and Wildlife codes. Native Americans in Alaska can sell whale products as a way of life. Also, beach-found walrus tusks that are tagged by Fish and Wildlife authorities can be sold. The percentage of inlay determines whether it can be sold – if it is a documented antique and no more than 20% ivory, then it can be sold. People from Russia are selling mastodon tusks that they are finding in the Siberian permafrost.

DFW is not only on the hunt for ivory – they look for any trafficking of endangered wildlife. They also educate about the law prohibiting the sale of ivory.

Recently they have found imported foxes for sale – involved parties were prosecuted. Also confiscated a shipping container containing shark fins. There are some sharks that you can legally sell fins of. This cargo represented 8,000 sharks – and some of them were illegal. The final destination was Hong Kong. There is no suspect at this time.

They also look for trade in endangered cats. One is the Jacobson cat; they found a coat made from 12-15 of these cats in a high-end fur shop. They look for Falcon smuggling via robbed eggs that are usually put into chest pouch to transport the eggs. Iran and other countries like these falcons as status symbols.

Exotic bird pet trade is hard because some birds have not made it onto the CITES endangered species list yet. Exotic reptiles are also big business. They tracked internet sales from a southern California underground shop which was selling native California species as well as deadly reptiles. When sales occur across State lines, then US Fish and Wildlife get involved via the Lacey Act. It is permissible to sell King Snakes.

Public comment: Marilyn Jasper – inquired about coloring the elephant tusk, dying the ivory, making the tusks no longer of value. Another comment concerned poachers hacking the GPS tracking of where these valuable animals are. Is anything being done about this? It was also mentioned that National Geographic did a program on tracking the illegal tusks with GPS to see what route they took when sold.

- B.** Update on the 2017-18 Commission grant program budget and timeline.
Available funds = \$890. There is not enough for a grant program this year. Husmann commented that we could contribute to a program instead, or only do a grant for this amount. Ed King clarified that if monies are not spent, they remain in

reserve until there is a viable amount. Daniels, Fowler, Gould, and Husmann are in favor of holding funds in reserve this year. King will notify people on the list that the Commission will not be offering grants this year.

8. Action Items:

- A.** Discussion on the possibility of forming a sub-committee to look at County road maintenance practices and sediment delivery to streams. Scott Husmann brought this to the attention of the commission. County road construction and maintenance practices sometimes directly connect roadway runoff to creeks. He is suggesting a different way for drainages to be maintained. The Tahoe Basin has adopted some of these practices. Husmann would like to form a sub-committee to investigate and present solutions. The County is actually plumbing the road system to the creeks – they do not follow a storm water prevention plan (that is required for other property owners). He would like to have the committee visit sites with Dept. of Public Works staff to come up with a solution. Husmann will ask Supervisor Montgomery how he should proceed. King suggested to form the subcommittee and find facts, meet with DPW and then inform the Supervisors. Motion to form the committee: Fowler motioned/Freidig seconded – MPUV. Members of the committee: Husmann for now, and wait till next meeting to add additional members.
- B.** Discussion and vote on sending a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to submit comments to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife prior to the August 31st deadline regarding the Center for Biological Diversity's petition to list the Foothill Yellow-legged Frog as a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act. Freidig motioned supporting the listing of the yellow legged frog as a threatened species and send a recommendation letter to the BOS – seconded by Fowler, MPUV.
- C.** Election of officers– Last meeting there was a nomination of Mark Fowler as chairman and Scott Husmann as vice chairman. Freidig moved that to elect such for the next fiscal year, Gould seconded, MPUV.

Next meeting – Gould will arrange August presenter.

9. Adjournment at 8:24 – next meeting is August 23rd.